

Recent meetings

We welcomed Ray David and Molly Lucas as new members.

Four members of the Bridgend club visited us on 19 November 2014. Brian Brandon entertained us with British postage rates. Nigel McGaw showed some of his Reginald Bray cards. I have only one in our postcard collection and that is from Chepstow Castle. Nigel showed us a copy of the book on the subject, "The Englishman Who Posted Himself and other Curious Objects" by John Tingey, a copy of which I was then compelled to buy from Amazon.

The film night on 3 December used the club projector linked to my DVD player. This gave us a chance to see some historic footage from the Post Office archives. The Christmas Social on 17 December included a competition to design a Christmas card. Members entered into the spirit of the occasion and rose to the challenge of wielding scissors and glue just as if they were back at school. Here is Graham Bean with his winning effort.



After the Christmas break, we moved onto the letter "D", then to the chairman's night where Alistair MacKinnon showed us some more material from the cold south. Next up was an evening on using computers and other helpful gadgets followed by a highly successful club auction.

The competition night on 11 March resulted in Les Ashton-Smith retaining the thematic trophy with his entry on the German Shepherd Dog, John Perry gained the postal history trophy with

his entry on Finland in World War 2. Roy Bentley presented the best eight sheet entry with Christmas Island which also gained the general trophy. Roy increased his entry to 16 sheets and together with Diane Cannard's thematic entry on the Red Cross in Africa we were able to send four entries for the South Wales Convention competition.



There were also eleven junior entries, each of one sheet, from the juniors at The Dell School stamp club. Members were asked to choose their favourite sheet.

March ended with the ever popular dealer night with Roy Holliss once again bringing along his Cover Love stock including a large rummage box from which members managed to find lots of items to enhance their collections. The first April meeting required members to bring along up to eight pages to illustrate the range of their collecting interests. A visit from the members from Hereford followed with a packed evening of displays of India, free franks, Ifni, King George V Silver Jubilee, the Allen Line and Hereford postal history. The final meeting before the AGM was the ladies' night with all five displaying.

**Visits**

Three members entertained the Barry club at the end of October 2014, with Martyn Britton showing Newport registered mail, Roy Bentley his Phillips covers and Alistair MacKinnon showing Antarctic. Three members formed the

team for the visit to Cardiff on 3 March, with Alistair displaying Dan ships, Martyn his Newport registered mail and John Perry his Finland in the second world war.

The visit to Hereford on the following day saw Roy kick off with British Locals, John followed with the Finland display shown at Hereford and the evening was completed by Martyn with Fiji and Alistair with Antarctic survey ships.

The final visit of the season was to Bridgend on 9 April. Regulars Martyn, Roy and John were joined by Bev Davies. Martyn reprised his display from Barry and Cardiff, Bev followed with Leipzig and samples of the work of the juniors at The Dell school stamp club. The evening was completed by Roy with Lundy and John with Finland postcards from the second world war.



In addition John Perry visited the Barry Club to show Sweden and Thornbury to display Swedish American Line and Sweden. Martyn Britton gave a display of Fiji to the Bristol Woodlands club and Roy Bentley gave a talk on Phillips, the Newport stamp dealer, to the Castleton Baptist Church

Juniors

John Perry and Martyn Britton ran a stamp collecting day in February at the Newport Central Library, repeating the one last September.

Bev Davies, occasionally assisted by John Perry, continued with the lunch-time club at The Dell School Chepstow.

Stamp News

There is not much to report on the Newport stamp front but I did pick up an item not seen before. It is an otherwise ordinary illustrated first day cover for the British Composers issue of 10 September 1980, worth only a few pence, but it has a cachet "posted at the concert of popular classics St

Julians High School, Newport, Gwent NPT 7XU".



Federation News

On a sad note, Geoff Cule of the Barry club has passed away. I represented the Newport club and the Federation at his funeral.

The Federation Committee has made some progress in ensuring the future of the annual Convention. It will take place in Port Talbot in 2016 but future arrangements are undecided. So far there is no news on the Autumn Day for 2015, with no club yet offering to host it.

Europhilex

Europhilex took place in London from 13 to 16 May 2015. The Newport club sponsored frames at the exhibition. John & Anne Perry also sponsored frames privately. The organisers acknowledged this on the exhibition website and the society's name also appeared on the frames and in the exhibition catalogue. Martyn Britton is shown here next to the five frame entry on the North Labrador Mail Steamer Service with the name of our club on the banner. This was good publicity for our club and in the good cause of promoting philately.



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